



The Canal Zone Philatelist



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Whole No. 190

The 1920 Panama and Canal Zone One Balboa (\$1) Stamp

by David Zemer

...It would be hard to find anywhere more beautiful examples of the American Bank Note Co.'s work at its best...

F.E. Heydon's praise in *The Stamps of Panama* [1] about the 1913-1920 commemorative stamps is as true today as it was 90 years ago. The highest denominations, 50c and \$1, of this attractive series were issued by Panama and the Canal Zone in 1920.

The stamp was designed with a one Balboa value for the Republic of Panama, and was overprinted CANAL ZONE to create the \$1 value Canal Zone stamp Scott No. 59.

Philatelists have been hampered in their study of these stamps by a dearth of information about their design and manufacture. Dr. James B. Helme developed an exhibit in 1968 featuring the 1920 issue but he noted on the exhibit page for the 50 *centésimos* stamp, "there are no known Panama records concerning the order, the quantities, or the first day of issue." This exhibit page contained only one large die proof of the vignette and one die proof of the stamp as issued. In his estate sale of 1998 there was one die proof of the \$1 stamp in the color as issued (Fig. 1). [2]

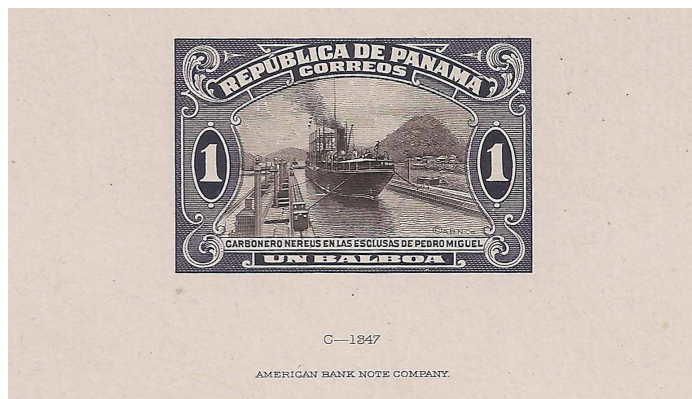


Fig. 1 \$1 die proof in issued colors, with "C-1347, American Bank Note Company" notation

A big breakthrough for researchers came in September 1990 when the American Bank Note Company (ABNCo) archives were sold by Christie's auction house. This sale gave researchers a treasure trove of never-before-seen material. [3] The auction catalogue noted that this auction would "represent all of the existing archival material that the company intends to sell," but important philatelic material from these archives is still coming onto the market with a major sale taking place as late as 2006. [4]

This article will first describe production of the \$1 stamp from the initial order to the eventual cancellation of the plates, based on documents from the ABNCo archives as well as information that had been available before 1990. In the latter part of the article other topics relevant to the production of this stamp will be discussed. A future article will cover the 50c stamp.

Timeline of the \$1 Stamp Plates: Origin to Cancellation

Dates noted throughout the article are taken from the archive documents. Dates of design work were usually

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Upcoming Regional Meetings

NOJEX 2014

Secaucus, NJ, Sat., May 31, 2014 • 11AM-1PM

NAPEX 2014

Tyson's Corner, VA, Sat., June 7, 2014
(see show program for meeting details)

Future National Meetings as a Participating Society

WESTPEX 2014

San Francisco, CA, April 25-27, 2014
(see pg. 10 of this issue for Schedule of CZSG Activities)

CHICAGOPEX 2014

Itasca (Chicago), IL, November 21-23, 2014

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The Canal Zone Philatelist

A.P.S. Affiliate No. 42

Web Page: WWW.CZSG.ORG

Richard D. Bates, Jr.

Editor

PO Box 40583

Palisades Station

Washington, DC 20016-0583

bates@georgetown.edu

Richard Spielberg

Associate Editor

4535 Via Del Buey

Yorba Linda, CA 92886

Home: (714) 693-3349

rmbspiel@sbcglobal.net

Proofreaders: Ruthann Bates, George Campbell

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Canal Zone Study Group

Commonly used abbreviations

BEP = Bureau of Engraving & Printing

CZ Stamps = *Canal Zone Stamps*, by Gilbert N. Plass, Geoffrey Brewster, and Richard H. Salz, The Canal Zone Study Group, 1986

CZP = *The Canal Zone Philatelist*

Entwistle = *The Postal Markings of the Canal Zone, 2nd Edition*, by Lawson P. Entwistle, The Canal Zone Study Group, 1992

French = *Encyclopedia of Plate Varieties on US Bureau-Printed Postage Stamps*, by Loran C. French, Bureau Issues Association, 1979

Scott = *Scott's Specialized Catalogue of U.S. Stamps*, current edition

Tatelman = *Canal Zone Postage Stamps*, by E.I.P. Tatelman, Canal Zone Postal Service, Mt. Hope, CZ, 1961

ABNCo = American Bank Note Company

NPM = National Postal Museum of the Smithsonian Institution

Journal citations are *Journal Name*, Volume No., Pages.

Anything without a byline is written by the Editor.

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The 1920 One Balboa (\$1) Stamp

continued from page 1

written by hand if done within a department or next to initials of ABNCo management approving a design. When sent from one department to another, official handstamps were normally applied in color by a clock stamp showing time of day with the date below it. The latter dates are normally on the back of the document. Also, to simplify the discussion of this stamp's manufacture, Table 1 has a synopsis of the timeline discussed here.

Table 1

Timeline for Production of Panama 1920 One Balboa Stamp

<u>1919</u>	
November 29	Canal Zone orders 50c, \$1 stamps from Panama, sends photographs
<u>1920</u>	
January 7	ABNCo Internal Order Form prepared and put into Storage Envelope
February 2	Essay finished, photograph of it made
February 3	Essay scheduled to be sent to Panama and returned within 30 days
February 16	New date for essay to be sent to Panama and returned within 30 days
February 18	"Model Sent to Panama" written on Storage Envelope
March 22	Approved essay back at ABNCo. March 22 is official Date of Order
March 23	Essay goes to Superintendent's Office
March 24	Essay received by Engraving Office
April 13	Engraving finished according to notes on original photo boards
April 14	Die Proof made
April 17	Die Proof sent to Superintendent's Office and spelling errors found
April 21	New Die Proof made, spelling corrected + layout sheet for plates drawn
April 22	New Die Proof received at Superintendent's Office
April 23	Final Die Proof approved and returned to Engraving Office
May 13	Plate Proofs in issuing color initialed
May 14	Plate Proofs approved by both ABNCo and Engraving Superintendents
August 23	Decree 126 approves manufacturing and issuing of stamp on September 1
September 4	Said to be first day of sale in Canal Zone
<u>1933</u>	
October 11	Cancellation impressions made of frame and vignette plates approved

November 1919. On November 29, 1919, the Canal Zone requested 50c and \$1 stamps from Panama under the Taft Agreement of December 3, 1904, which obligated Panama to supply the Canal Zone with Panama stamps overprinted CANAL ZONE, and in return Panama received 40% of the face value of the stamps. The Canal Zone supplied Panama with official photographs numbered 26-J-293, showing the Balboa Dry Docks, for the 50c stamp, and 33-X-40, the USS *Nereus* in the Pedro Miguel locks, for the \$1 stamp. [5,6]

January 1920. An internal order form for the \$1 stamp, numbered F 6272, dated January 7, 1920 (see Fig. 2a), started the production procedure for this new stamp. The clock date stamp on the back of the form shows that it was received in the Superintendent's office the next day (see Fig. 2b). On March 24 the order was passed to the Department of Engraving (see

Fig. 2c). The order is for 50,000 stamps for Panama and an additional 50,000 overprinted "CANAL ZONE."

Fig. 2a ABNCo order form for the One Balboa (\$1) Stamp, January 7, 1920



Fig. 2b
Order form received by
the Superintendent's Office,
January 8, 1920



Fig. 2c
Order form received by
the Engraving Department,
March 24, 1920

These new stamps were ordered to be "Similar to Order F 5082," the 12c, 15c, and 24c stamps issued by the Canal Zone in 1917, and the frame of the \$1 stamp would be printed in "20 Purple." This reference to the 1917 issues might have led to a spelling mistake, discussed later, when the first \$1 die was created.

The information on the front of a storage envelope is important as it helps us understand the nomenclature the ABNCo used when developing a stamp. It confirms that the "Date of Model Schedule" was January 7, 1920, and provides additional details concerning this order. Numbers 9463 and F 6272 found on the order form are the Schedule Number and Order Number, respectively; they were used to identify this order through each step of the development process (see Fig. 3).

Fig. 3 Storage envelope cover, January 7, 1920

The envelope was sent by John P. Treadwell, Jr., Manager of the Engraving Department, to Alfred Sarony Major, who had previously been Head of the Modeling Department, then Superintendent, and finally, from 1917 to 1929, a vice-president. [7,8]

February 1920. There was one photographic record of the \$1 essay, dated February 2, and it was identical to that on the approved essay, indicating that this composite essay was finished no later than February 2 (see Fig. 4).



Fig. 4
Photographic record
of the \$1 essay dated
February 2, 1920

The original composite essays of the 50c and \$1 comprised vignettes made from reduced photographs, hand-drawn frames in color, and lettering in Chinese white. Both were mounted on boards for approval by Panama. On the back of the board the same handstamp, "Please return within 30 days to ABNCo," appears twice, once with the date February 3 and then with February 16 (see Fig. 5).



Fig. 5 Handmade essays of the 50c and \$1 stamps
approved by Panama

March 1920. The storage envelope indicates that the essay was sent to Panama on February 18 and returned to the ABNCo by March 22. This latter date is important and the envelope defines it to be the official Date of Order.

As indicated by official handstamps and signatures from

Juan B. Sosa, the Director General of the Panama Post and Telegraph, and Charles L. Stockelberg, Chief of Purchases and Materials for the Republic of Panama, the essays were approved by Panama. The Panama-approved essays were then approved by the Superintendent of the ABNCo on March 23, and on March 24, as noted above, the Superintendent of the engraving department received them accompanied by the order form.

April 1920. The production file contained two copies of the same photograph to be used for the \$1 stamp vignette. The photograph was taken on May 4, 1915, from the control house on the Pedro Miguel Locks looking north (see Fig. 6). In the east chamber was a collier (coal supply ship), the USS *Nereus*. The vertical measurements seen on the board to the left of the photo show that the photograph needed to be cropped and reduced from 175 mm to 14 mm, 8% of the original size. On the back of the board in very light hand-writing is April 13, 1920, and the notation, *Eng. By C.H. Dawson, finished by Rob't Savage*. At the top of the photograph is another die number, *Special C-1662*, thought to indicate that this die could only be used for this particular customer. [9]



Fig. 6 Collier USS *Nereus* in Pedro Miguel Locks, May 4, 1915

On the back of the second, identical photograph (also dated April 13 and with the notation *Engraved by Clifford H. Dawson and Rob't Savage*), there is also a short description and a 15 centimos King Alfonso XIII Spanish stamp, Sc. 300, included as a color example. Because of the fragile condition of the photo and mounting board the photo was only partially lifted and a photograph made of the back (see Fig. 7).

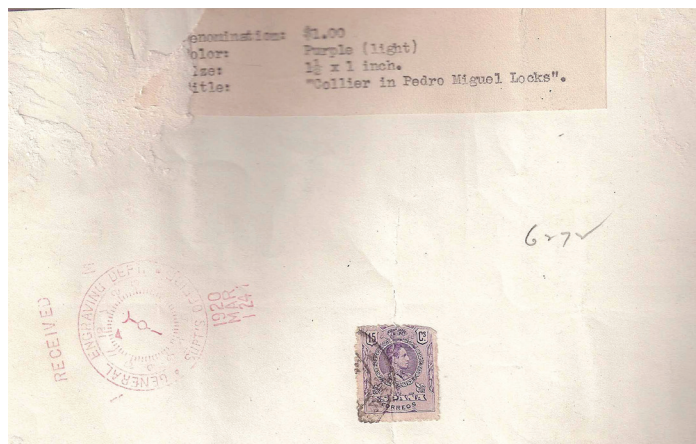


Fig. 7 Back of photo. Lilac-colored 15 centimos Spanish stamp, Sc. 300. Used as color example

The production files included two large \$1 pre-production die proofs marked *FOR APPROVAL*. The manuscript dates on the two original photographs show that the engravers were finished with the vignette on April 13 and a day later the first die proof was received by the Superintendent's Office. It was not approved until April 23 because this die had two spelling errors in the title.

The first error was *CARCOHERO*, a misspelling of *CARBONERO*, the translation of "Collier." The second error was *EXCLUSAS*, instead of *ESCLUSAS*, "locks" (see Fig. 8). The *EXCLUSAS* error was the same misspelling that occurred on both the 1915 5c Gatun Locks and 1917 24c S.S. *Cristobal* in Gatun Locks stamps (See Fig. 9a, 9b). The correct spellings were used on both the order form of January 7 and the approved essay of March 22, so the errors must have occurred within the engraving department.



Fig. 8 \$1 Large die proof with spelling errors



Fig. 9a, 9b 5c and 24c Stamps with the EXCLUSAS misspelling

Perhaps the misspelling error was due to the Order Form's recommendation that the stamp have a *General Style Similar to F 5082*, the order number for the 24c S.S. *Cristobal* in Gatun Locks stamp. This time the ABNCo caught these errors and the die was corrected.

On April 21, 1920 the second large die proof for the \$1 stamp was approved with date stamps on the back of April 22 and April 23 (see Fig. 10).

The reduced photo of the U.S.S. *Nereus* in the Pedro Miguel locks was faithfully reproduced by the engraver for the vignette. Not only are line handlers on the starboard side of the ship included in this stamp but when magnified, the area to the left of the mule in the foreground shows a sign.

The sign, but not the lettering, is faithfully reproduced on the stamp and shown outlined in red in the vignette (Fig. 12).



Fig. 10 \$1 Large die proof without spelling errors



Fig. 11
Sign reading
"NOTICE/KEEP OFF
THE GRASS"



Fig. 12
KEEP OFF THE GRASS
sign, without lettering,
engraved in vignette

A rough layout sheet showing the size and positioning of the stamps was drawn on April 21-22 and approved for manufacturing (see Fig. 13).

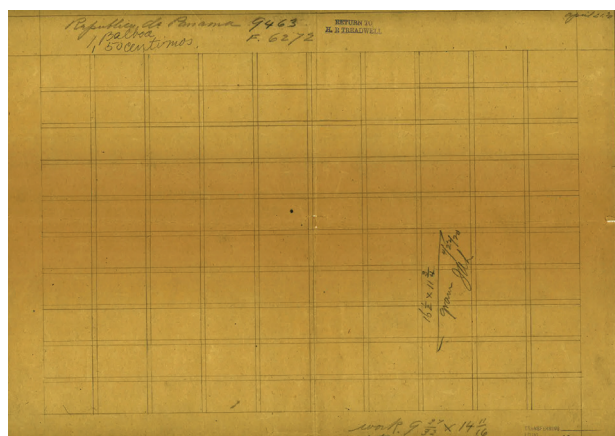


Fig. 13 \$1 Plate layout sheet (380 x 500 mm)

May 1920. Two plate proof sheets on light card of 100 vignettes and frames, in issued colors, of the \$1 stamp were printed and initialed on May 13, 1920. The next day they were approved by the Engraving Office. Unfortunately these plate proofs are no longer intact having been cut into many pieces, but we have the pieces with the key signatures and approval dates (see Fig. 14 a,b).

In 1933 the ABNCo printed Cancellation Impressions of many of their stamps including the \$1 stamp. Except for the

colors of the frames, which are green, these plate proofs are identical to the 1920 plate proofs and were given a new order number, F 9756. They were approved and dated October 6, 10, and 11, 1933 (Fig. 15 a,b).



Fig. 14a Plate proofs of vignette with dates

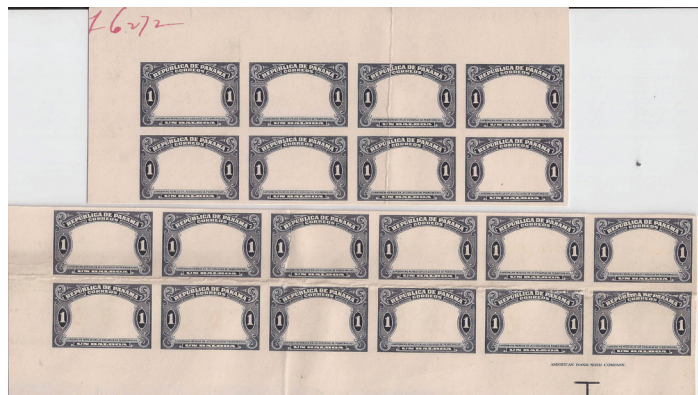


Fig. 14b Plate proofs of frame in issued colors



Fig. 15a Cancellation plate vignette

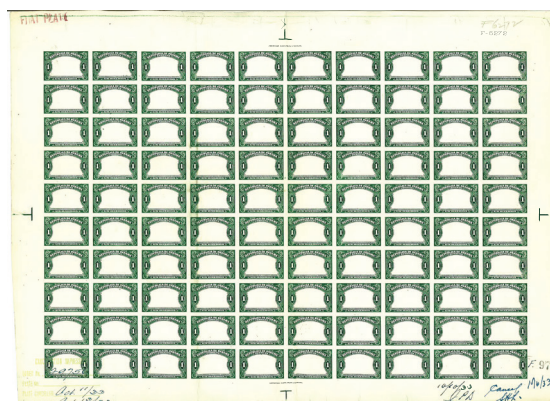


Fig. 15b Cancellation plate frame, green

Die Proof Numbering

There are a number of die proofs with different numbers for this stamp. An article by Ross Towle [9], gives an overview of the use of F (for Foreign) order numbers and the numbering of die proofs by the ABNCo. For die proofs, there were three general periods, 1858-1878, 1879-1923, and 1924-1980s. Of particular interest for the owner of any ABNCo die proof is the section on the renumbering of dies starting in 1924. The pre-1924 die numbers have a line drawn through them and were renumbered with a new 5-digit die number.

1920 Die Proofs

We have listings and examples of the die proof numbers for this 1920 issue from the production material, as well as die proofs that predate the 1990 Christie's sale. Looking first at the archive material, the dies are identified by hand-written numbers on the original photographs and next to reduced photos on board (see Fig. 16).



Fig. 16 Reduced photos of 50c and \$1 stamps used for vignettes

There are two \$1 die proofs that predate the Christie's sale and that have different inscriptions under the stamp. One is a vignette die proof inscribed, "Collier Nereus, Panama Stamp,

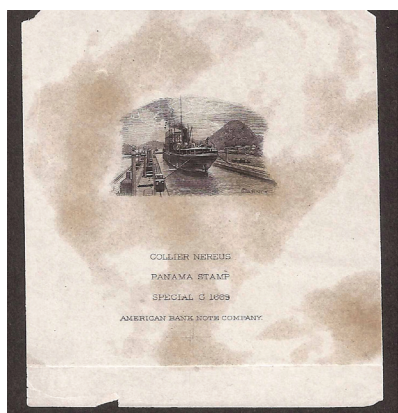


Fig. 17 Vignette die proof inscribed *Collier Nereus, Panama Stamp, Special C-1663 and American Bank Note Company* on thin paper

Special C-1663" and "American Bank Note Company" on thin paper with glue stains (see Fig. 17). The second shows the full stamp in issued colors and below it simply "C-1347, American Bank Note Company" (see Fig. 1). Looking at the two proofs, it is evident that ABNCo's practice for this stamp was to use the frame die number and issued color when a die proof of the complete stamp was made.

Color of Stamp Frames

In the production files there were no examples of this stamp in colors different than that used for production. The final frame color does not match the reference stamp from Spain shown in Fig. 7 and it is not known if this stamp came from Panama or the ABNCo. However, one set of plate proofs in a variety of colors appeared after the Christie's sale. It had several stamps of the 1917 series in different than issued colors as well as one copy of the \$1 stamp. In it the \$1 frame is lighter and bluer (Fig. 18).



Fig. 18 Trimmed die proofs of the 1917 series in different shades including one copy of the \$1 stamp

Several years after the 1990 Christie's sale, renumbered ABNCo die proofs appeared on the market. They were glued to thick, hard envelopes obviously used in storing documents at the ABNCo. Most of these die proofs had been cut off of the envelopes and sold in the secondary or tertiary markets. The renumbered dies (described above) are illustrated on these proofs, shown in Fig. 19 and listed in Table 2.



Fig. 19 Old numbers lined out and a new five digit number added to the die

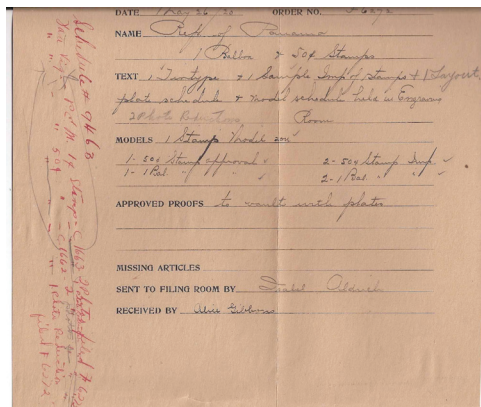
Table 2 Original and Renumbered \$1 Die proofs with Engraver Names [10]

Die proof	Original Die Number (1920)	New Die Number (ca 1924)	Engraved by	Finished by
\$1 vignette	Special C 1663	V 43148	Clifford H. Dawson	Robert Savage
\$1 frame	C 1347	31326	Young	

The black vignette for the \$1 stamp, at left in Fig. 19, has two, not one, die numbers lined out. They are special C 1663, which refers to the \$1 stamp, and C 1662 which refers to the 50c stamp and appears to have been added in error.

Print Date of the Stamps

We were unable to find the date that these stamps were printed. May 26 is the date that the materials listed on the Filing Room envelope were sent to the filing room (Fig. 20). The stamps were possibly issued by the Canal Zone and Panama in September 1920, a topic that will be covered in a follow-up article. If so, they had to have been printed between the middle of May and the middle of August. However, to be sure that we did not misinterpret other dates from the archives that by themselves might indicate a print date, we examined them more closely.



**Fig. 20 Front of Filing Room Envelope May 26, 1920,
list of items kept**

\$1 Index Card

The \$1 Index Card documented by Helme [11] was not contemporaneous with the development of these stamps and contained useful, but sometimes erroneous, information verified by the material in the production file. One date at the top of the cards, February 18, 1920, was puzzling but as there is a matching date on the envelope shown in Fig. 3 it appears that this Index File date could have referred to the date the model was (to be) sent to Panama for approval.

Specimen Stamps

In the Christie's sale there were 3 sheets of specimen stamps for the Canal Zone \$1 issue but none for Panama. These Canal Zone sheets were fragile and often missing stamps and selvage. Each stamp had *SPECIMEN* overprinted in red and had a small security hole punched through it. At the top of the panes were several markings from rubber stamps. *F 6272* was in red, *MARCH 22, 1920* in light purple, and in a darker red box *RETURN TO RECORD & SPECIMEN DEPT* (see Fig. 21)



Fig. 21 \$1 Canal Zone SPECIMEN block and top selvage

The consensus among those of us studying these stamps at the time of the Christie's sale was that March 22, 1920 was either the date that these stamps were printed or the date that the specimen stamps were returned to the Records and Specimens Department. [12] However this study shows that our previous premises were wrong. March 22, 1920 was the

Official Date of Order and used by the ABNCo to identify the specific order date for this particular order of stamps.

The plate proofs of the vignettes and frames in issued colors were not approved until May 13 and therefore this would have been the earliest date that the stamps could have been printed.

Official Decree for the 50c and \$1 Stamps

Panama usually issued a law or decree ordering a new stamp and/or proclaiming the first day that it could be put into circulation. However this procedure was not consistent. Decrees to order stamps were issued before the manufacturer produced them, after they were printed, or on the day that they were put into circulation, or the decrees were not published at all.

Decree number 126 of 23 August 1920 reproduced and translated at the end of this article defined the stamps and gave September 1 as the first day of issue in Panama. *Canal Zone Stamps* gives the first day of issue in the Canal Zone as September 4. No cancellations, covers, or FDCs for either the Canal Zone or Panama were found during this research for any September 1920 dates. [13]

Contribution of the ABNCo Archives to the Understanding of Panama's 1920 \$1 Stamp Design and Manufacturing Process

The ABNCo production file for the \$1 stamp held all of the die proofs and documents listed on the storage envelope. Using archival documents along with material that was known before the sale we were able to follow the process from the order by the Canal Zone to the storage of the completed die and plate proofs and the eventual cancellation of the plates in 1933.

Because of the writing next to the original photographs we can now credit Clifford H. Dawson as the vignette engraver and Robert Savage as the finisher. The Index Cards were deficient as they mentioned Savage as the engraver when he was the finisher.

We were also able to clarify that only 50,000 \$1 stamps were in the original order. In *Canal Zone Stamps* the authors were not certain if 50,000 or 100,000 were initially ordered.

An important discovery was that the date rubber-stamped on the Specimen stamps was the Order Date and was not connected to the printing date or when these stamps were returned to the Record and Specimen Department. The date 3/20, March 1920, and 6272, the Foreign Order Number, also appear next to the 50c and \$1 stamps in the Panama section of Lot 4 of the Christie's ABNCo Archive catalogue.

We have often referenced the *Panama Journal* which uses a date consisting of the month and year when referring to an order but there was no definition in the *Journal* of what the date meant. [14] Between March and September 1920 there were only two listings for postage stamps for Panama in the *Journal*. In March there was an order for 200,000 postage stamps and in May 1,000,000 postage stamps. We referred to *Canal Zone Stamps*, which shows that 1,000,000 Canal Zone 2c stamps, Scott 56, were delivered on August 31, 1920. Then we checked the CZ specimen stamp of this issue and it had the date May 7, 1920 hand-stamped on the upper selvaige. This confirms what we suspected from the study of the \$1 stamp: the dates used in the *Journal* are the ABNCo internal Order

Dates.

We also were able to follow the Quality Control procedures in place at the ABNCo and see that this time they were able to keep from being embarrassed by printing a third stamp with *ESCLUSAS* misspelled.

We do not know if additional archival materials from the ABNCo or any records from Panama still exist but if they turn up then they will give us greater insight into the ABNCo's ordering, manufacturing, and distribution processes.

Acknowledgements

Because of Federico Brid's research and translation we were able to print *Decree 126 of August 23, 1920*, the legal basis for the One Balboa stamp, for the first time in a philatelic publication. Ruthann Bates' help was invaluable as she proofread and cleaned up numerous grammatical errors, making this article much easier to read.

Decree Number 126 of 23 August 1920

By which it approves in all its parts Decree number 17 of the 20th of August 1920 issued by the *Dirección General de Correos y Telégrafos*

The 3rd designee in-charge of the Executive Power in the use of his legal authority

DECREES

Sole article. It approves in all its parts decree number 17 of the 20th of this month issued by the *Dirección General de Correos y Telégrafos*. The decree is as follows:

DECREE NUMBER 17 OF 20 AUGUST 1920

The *Director General de Correos y Telégrafos* in the use of his legal authority and according to the 7th article of Law No. 11 of 1919

DECREES

Article 1. It is authorized the issuance of two new postal species to be used by the post offices of the Republic and by the post offices of the Canal of Panama whose value, inscriptions and colors will be as follows:

Paragraph 1. Stamps whose denomination will be of fifty centésimos of Balboa (B. 0.50) whose engraving will be the dry dock of Balboa in the Canal Zone of Panama; the inscription <<República de Panama>> — <<Correos>> and cincuenta – cincuenta in the upper part and <<Dique de Balboa>> <<Canal de Panama>> Cincuenta centésimos de Balboa in letters in the lower part with an orange frame and the engraving in black.

Paragraph 2. Stamps whose denomination will be one Balboa (B. 1.00) whose engraving will be the coal ship named <<Nerús>> going through the Canal of Panama; the inscription <<República de Panama>> — <<Correos>> in the upper part and one --- one - in the lateral sections <<Carbonero Nereus en las Esclusas de Pedro Miguel>> — <<Un Balboa>> in letters in the lower part; and the frame in violet color and engraving in black.

Article 2. The postal species that will be used by the post offices of the Canal Zone will be overprinted <<Canal Zone>>. All the stamps described in the previous paragraphs will be placed in circulation on the 1st of September of this year.

Article 3. This decree will be sent for approval to the Executive Power through the Secretariat of Government and

Justice.

Issued in the City of Panama on the 20th of August, 1920

Juan B. Sosa

Director General de Correos y Telégrafos

Carlos Ortiz R

Temporary Secretary

Let it be registered, communicated and published

Issued in Panama on the 23rd of August 1920

E. T. LEFEVRE

The Secretary of Government and Justice, R.J. Alfaro

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- [1] F.E. Heydon, *The Stamps of Panama*, ca. 1924, pp. 18, 19.
- [2] Helme's notations, 1968 EFIMEX exhibit page for 1920 Panama 50c stamp.
- [3] *American Banknote Co. Archive Sale, US Possessions, Latin America and Worldwide*, Christie's Robson Lowe, New York, September 12, 1990.
- [4] *Cherrystone-Past Auction Catalogues*, www.cherrystoneauctions.com, November 16, 2006, Lots 2449-2461.
- [5] *CZ Stamps*, pp. 110, 111.
- [6] Gilbert N. Plass, "Abrogation of Taft Agreement" *CZP 12(3):17* (1976).
- [7] Gene Hessler, *The Engravers Line*, BNR Press, 1993, p. 211.
- [8] William H. Griffiths, *The Story of the American Bank Note Company*, 1959, p. 89.
- [9] Ross Towle, "ABNCo Die Numbers, 'Index Copy' Cards, and Print Orders," *The Collectors Club Philatelist*, **88(5):291-303**.
- [10] Hessler, *op.cit.* p. 258.
- [11] James B. Helme, "Panama: American Bank Note Co. Index Cards: Issue Other than Airmails," *The Collectors Club Philatelist* **70(2):107** (1991).
- [12] James W. Crumpacker, "American Banknote Company Canal Zone Specimens," *CZP 31(2):10* (1995).
- [13] *ibid.* ref. 5.
- [14] Ricardo M. Magan, notes from his 2005 book *Latin American Bank Note Records - American Bank Note Company Archives*, donated to the ANA Money Museum.

New Lower Prices CANAL ZONE SPECIMENS

Irwin Gibbs

IJGibbs@covad.net

(415) 828-6242

Study Group News

President's Report

David Zemer
P.O. Box 654 Skoeyen
NO-0214 Oslo, Norway
sosahill@hotmail.com

Volunteers Needed

The CZSG will have a stand at WESTPEX 2014 and we will try to have a member there all three days. This will be an excellent chance for us to recruit new members as well as meet old friends. If you will be at the show please think about volunteering to sit at the stand for a few hours. Contact myself, our editor, or Tom Brougham ahead of time or simply drop by and introduce yourself.

For the latest information on CZSG meetings and exhibits at WESTPEX 2014 click onto our website and www.Westpex.org. The current schedule of CZSG activities at WESTPEX is shown on page 10.

Announcement

The CZSG is pleased to announce that Len Nadybal has been appointed to manage the CZSG Publications Office. Len is a contracting officer for the Department of Interior who particularly likes overprinted stamps and postal history of enclaves. His favorite philatelic subject is Bhutan. He has strong computer skills and has developed a number of philatelic websites. The new address of the Publications Office is:

CZSG Publications
Len Nadybal
PO Box 1901
Herndon, VA 20172

To see inventory and order on the internet, visit www.tinyurl.com/czsgpubs or email Len at czsgpubs@philatelic.info

The CZSG thanks Richard Murphy for his more than 25 years of service since 1988 as the previous manager of the CZSG Publications Office.

Secretary's Report

Mike Drabik
P.O. Box 281, Bolton, MA 01740-0281
czsgsecretary@gmail.com

Hello everyone from the wintery Northeast. I hope that 2014 has been a good year so far and that we all will be able to enjoy some warmer weather and spring flowers soon.

If you are reading this report and have not yet sent in payment for your annual dues for 2014 (and possibly future years) by mail or to my paypal address (drabik141@gmail.com), you are asked to do so as soon as possible. Be aware that you may not receive future issues of *The Canal Zone Philatelist* until you do.

Unfortunately as of today there are 142 members who are not current in payment of their annual dues.

As of March 3, 2014, the Canal Zone Study Group has 565 members.

Please join me in welcoming 6 new members:

Michael E. Reed, CZSG # 2718	Mark F. Mosser, CZSG # 2722
Michael Leszcz, CZSG # 2719	Postal History Foundation, Memorial
Thomas P. Buckley, CZSG # 2720	Philatelic Library, CZSG # 2723
Joseph L. Berlin, CZSG # 2721	

We have been notified of changes to the addresses for the following CZSG members:

William J. Walsko, CZSG # 1363	Peter A. Hood, CZSG # 2288
Michael Shapiro, CZSG # 1578	Oswaldo Leonart, CZSG # 2390
Thomas E. Stoakley, CZSG # 2061	Ronald G. Rada, CZSG # 2583
C. Adrian Shoemaker, CZSG # 2118	Susan R. Whitehead, CZSG # 2631

I regret that I've been asked or need to remove the following members from our CZSG membership list:

Dr. George M. Platner, CZSG # 1027	Elwynn J. Miller, CZSG # 2475
Richard Pounder, CZSG # 1383	Stephen A. Wittig, CZSG # 2622
Kenneth A. Flagg, CZSG # 1690	

Election Results

Those elected for two-year terms are:

David Zemer as President with 303 votes
Mike Demski as Vice President with 307 votes
Dick Larkin as Treasurer with 308 votes
(we apologize for the error in his name on the ballot)
Mike Drabik as Secretary with 315 votes
Dr. Gary Weiss as Director with 226 votes
Richard Spielberg as Director with 169 votes
Paul Ammons as Director with 150 votes

Thanks to all who voted.

Lastly, due to the very positive response I received from the last mailing to APS members who specialize in the Canal Zone, I will be doing another mailing to APS members who specialize in collecting U.S. Possessions to try to generate some new CZSG members.

As always, thanks for your support and please feel free to contact me.

WANTED

- #9 Stages I & II, Sheets only
- #10 Stages I & II, Sheets only
- #12 Stages I, II, III & IV, Sheets & Blocks
- #13 Stages I, II & III, Sheets & Blocks

Unused & Used. Approvals accepted.

If you don't know the stage, I am happy to examine any item.

Geoffrey Brewster 480-607-7184

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Schedule of CZSG Activities at WESTPEX 2014

TIME	EVENT	SPEAKER
Friday, April 25th		
8:00 AM	CZSG Board Meeting	
2:00 PM	Canal Zone Revenues, Including Licenses and License Plates	Gary B. Weiss
3:00 PM	Extreme Canal Zone Postal History: Unusual and Important Items from the Brett Hoard	Tom Brougham
6:30 PM	Canal Zone Study Group Dinner (joint with COPAPHIL)	
Saturday, April 26th		
1:30 PM	Canal Zone Study Group General Membership Meeting	
6:00 PM	Awards Banquet (ticket required)	
Sunday, April 27th		
10:00 AM	Canal Zone Errors, Freaks, Oddities, Flyspecks, and Lesser Varieties	Gary B. Weiss
	Recently Discovered Errors and Varieties on U.S. Stamps Overprinted Canal Zone	Richard D. Bates, Jr.

Canal Zone Exhibits at WESTPEX 2014

FRAMES	EXHIBIT TITLE	EXHIBITOR
33-36	Canal Zone Air Mail Stamps Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Opening the Panama Canal	Michael Drabik
57-64	Canal Zone Postal Stationery 1907-1924	Irwin Gibbs
72	The 1920 Panama and Canal Zone One Balboa Stamp	David Zemer
85	Compagnie Universelle du Canal Interocéanique de Panama and Compagnie Nouvelle de Canal de Panama	Bradley Wilde
100-104	Canal Zone Overprints on Panama's 1909 ABNCo Portrait Designs	Thomas Brougham
105-114	Canal Zone Second Air Mail Series	Paul F. Ammons
244-249	Postal Inflation in the Canal Zone 1958-1979	Dickson Preston
280	Origins of Errors and Varieties on U.S. Stamps Overprinted CANAL ZONE	Richard D. Bates, Jr.
281-282	Canal Zone First Series, 1904	Gary B. Weiss
283	CANAL ZONE: The 1926 Sesquicentennial Issue	John P. Wynns

Auctions

by Jim Crumpacker

Unlike previous auctions from the last year or so, the fourth calendar quarter (Oct. 1-Dec. 31, 2013) proved fruitful for better Canal Zone philatelic material. Volume-wise no auction was a monster, but scarce items abounded.

Some categories are hot, some not. For instance, a F+ to VF set of C15-C20 plate blocks of 6, NH, sold at Kelleher for \$1298 on a catalog value of \$1105. On the other hand, at the same auction, multiples of the Specimens issues were offered in 13 lots at a low estimate of \$90 per stamp. None sold.

The total sale price of hammer plus commission is given first below, and is followed in parentheses by the value from the 2013 Scott Catalogue.

10a, inverted overprint, OG, NH, VF \$295 (\$225) Kelleher
 15, OG, HR, almost VF \$920 (\$2500) R.A. Siegel
 25a, horiz. pair imperf. between and at left margin, OG, H,
 1 stamp with a tiny thin o/w VG-F \$590 (\$1750) Kelleher
 31c, cpl. bklt. of 4 panes on lemon stock, CZSG 31c.2, OG,
 NH, VF \$1840 (\$2000) R.A. Siegel
 32c, cpl. bklt. of 2 panes, cover style B, CZSG 32c.4, OG,
 NH, VF \$1380 (\$1600) R.A. Siegel
 39g, bklt. pane of 6, handmade, perf. margins, OG, NH, 1
 side trimmed by knife as often, o/w F+ \$518 (\$900)
 Rumsey
 46a, overprint reading down, glazed TG, H, barely F \$167
 (\$375) RegencySuperior
 47, TG, H, F \$1035 (\$3250) R.A. Siegel

48, OG, NH, VF+ \$546 (\$500) Rumsey
 60b, booklet pane of 6, OG, H, XF \$863 (\$900) R.A. Siegel
 67a, ZONE CANAL reading down, OG, NH, barely F \$274
 (\$800) RegencySuperior
 80, pl. bl. of 6, #14042-T w/ "F," OG, VLH, VF+ \$4025
 (\$3000) R.A. Siegel
 95, pl. bl. of 6, #14268-T w/ "F," OG, H, almost VF \$1495
 (\$2000) R.A. Siegel
 CO14a, inverted ovpt, OG, usual roller cancel, nat. se at rt.,
 F+ \$1380 (\$2500) R.A. Siegel
 J19, pl. bl. of 6, #14027-T w/ "F," TG, H, F, \$137 (\$160)
 RegencySuperior
 U2b, head and ovpt only, mint entire, few toning specks
 o/w VF \$489 (\$1500) R.A. Siegel
 U2c, frame only, used 7/12/20 Pedro Miguel to Paraiso,
 VF \$1380 (\$2000) R.A. Siegel
 UF1 (UPSS R1), mint entire, VF \$1265 (\$1750) R.A. Siegel
 UF1 (UPSS R1), used Corozal 11/11/19 w/ two faulty #53
 added to US, open top and both sides o/w VF \$2185
 (\$2000) R.A. Siegel

The complete names and addresses of the auction houses that offered these lots are:

Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions 4 Finance Dr., Suite 100 Danbury, CT 06810	Schuyler Rumsey Auctions 47 Kearny St. San Francisco, CA 94108
RegencySuperior PO Box 8277 St. Louis, MO 63156-8277	Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc. 60 East 56th St. New York, NY 10022

Double Transfers on the Right Side of the 30c Bison Stamp

by Richard D. Bates, Jr.

Recent reports (*CZP* 47(2): 13,18 (2009) and *CZP* 49(2): 21 (2013)) have identified a double transfer (DT) on position LR79 of plate 14438 of the 30c Bison stamp, US No. 569. Stamps from this plate were overprinted CANAL ZONE to produce both the flat A variety, Canal Zone No. 79, and the sharp A variety, No. 93, and the DT variety has now been found on both CZ stamps. These show significant doubling of the design on the left third of the stamp, and they are now listed in the Canal Zone section of *Scott*.

But I have now seen two copies of Canal Zone stamps with some readily apparent doubling of the design on the right side that is easily spotted. One copy I found at a dealer's table; the other was shared with me by CZSG member Don Kuske. They are both on CZ No. 93, and both show significant evidence of a DT on the right side. The two stamps are illustrated in Fig. 1, with an expanded view of the right side of each in Figs. 2a and 2b.

The discovery of these two stamps has prompted me to search the plate proofs of the plates used to produce CZ No. 93. Two sets of four plates each were used to produce the first and second printings of No. 93. Plates 14436-39 were used for the first printing, plates 17446-49 for the second. *CZ Stamps* indicates that it is hard to distinguish single copies of 93 from the two printings, so all eight plates of the 30c stamp needed to be checked. (There are other plates used to produce copies of the US 30c stamp that would not need to be checked, as stamps printed from them were not overprinted to produce Canal Zone stamps. One such plate (16065) has a significant double transfer on the right side of one stamp (UR52) listed in the US section of *Scott*.)

Careful inspection of each of the 400 positions on each of plates 17446-49 failed to reveal any DTs on the right third of the plate proof positions. Thus the DTs on the stamps in Fig. 1 are not from the second printing of No. 93.

But plates 14436-39 told a different story. All four plates have initials (W McA) adjacent to LL91 that indicate the same siderographer worked on the plates; the plate finishers for each plate were different.

Eleven positions showed at least a significant fraction of the doubled lines characteristic of the DT identified in Figs. 1 and 2. At least one position from each of the four plates falls into that category. The doubling present on each of the 11 plate proof positions is sufficiently close to being the same that a definitive match of the stamp with the plate proof is not possible.

The 11 positions on the plate proofs with partial DTs on the right side of stamps are exclusively from the left panes of the plates. Moreover, nine of the 11 examples are from the left-most vertical column of stamps on the plates. They occur on both UL and LL panes. Only one example is from the middle of a left pane. None is from a right pane. Fig. 3 shows two examples from the plate proofs for the 30c Bison stamps that show similar, but not identical, evidence of a double transfer similar to the stamps illustrated above. Both are from the plate proof for plate 14436. They are from positions UL61 and LL31.

The matches of several of these 11 positions are very close;

the differences could be accounted for by the heaviness of the inking and aging of the plate. This is one reason that these right side DTs cannot, in my opinion, be identified as a major DT from a particular position on a particular plate. Other reasons are the limited degree to which the image is doubled, and the degree of displacement of the two images. Even though there are several features nearly perfectly matched, these are best termed minor double transfers of the type discussed in a previous article in *CZP* 48(2): 18-19 (2010) regarding CZ No. 4. Because these plates were also used to produce CZ No. 79, these DTs may possibly also be found on the flat A overprinted 30c Bison stamps.



Fig. 1 Two stamps with DT at right



Fig. 2 Expanded views of the right sides of the two stamps shown in Fig. 1



Fig. 3 Right side portion of plate proof images for plate 14436 position LL31 at left, and plate 14436 position UL61 at right

Via Trans-Pacific Air Mail by Paul F. Ammons

This is a follow-up to my two previous *CZP* articles [1] [2] on previously unreported Miscellaneous Notices (MisN) – 11 auxiliary handstamps applied to Canal Zone air mail pre-paid to receive expedited Trans-Atlantic, Trans-Pacific, or within Europe air mail service.

While working up my exhibit for WESTPEX 2014, I discovered two new Trans-Pacific handstamps. Both 1937 ½ oz. covers to Honolulu, Territory of Hawaii, are franked with 45¢ postage paying the 20¢ per ½ oz. air mail rate from the CZ to the US and the 25¢ per ½ oz. Trans-Pacific air mail rate to Hawaii.

The new two-line Via Trans-Pacific / Air-Mail handstamp, Fig. 1, on the January 16, 1937 cover in Fig. 2, is similar to MisN-11, VIA TRANS-ATLANTIC / AIR MAIL, previously identified by Entwistle. [3]



Fig. 1 New two-line VIA TRANS-PACIFIC / AIR MAIL handstamp



Fig. 2 Cover with new two-line VIA TRANS-PACIFIC / AIR MAIL handstamp

The new one-line 6mm x 58mm TRANS-PACIFIC AIR MAIL handstamp shown in Fig. 3, on the May 2, 1937 cover, Fig. 4, is similar to one of the newly identified Trans-Atlantic handstamps. [2]



Fig. 3 New TRANS-PACIFIC / AIR MAIL handstamp



Fig. 4 New TRANS-PACIFIC / AIR MAIL handstamp on cover

Additionally, this cover has an example of the 4mm x 53mm MisN-11b shown in Fig. 5. [3]

BY TRANS-PACIFIC ROUTE

Fig. 5 New BY TRANS-PACIFIC ROUTE handstamp

Does anyone have examples of other auxiliary markings indicating expedited air mail service across the Pacific?

It should be noted that not all items mailed from the Canal Zone pre-paid to receive expedited Trans-Pacific air mail received auxiliary markings.

References

- [1] Paul Ammons, "Via Air Mail Within Europe," *CZP* 49(1):12 (2013)
- [2] Paul Ammons and Dickson Preston, "Via Trans-Atlantic Air Mail," *CZP* 49(4):42-43 (2013)
- [3] Lawson P. Entwistle, *The Postal Markings of the Canal Zone, Second Edition*, Handbook No. 9, Canal Zone Study Group, 1992, pg. 148.

Pre-printing Paper Creases by Richard D. Bates, Jr.

In the area of errors, freaks, and oddities, varieties arising from pre-printing paper creases, also called paper folds, can provide very striking examples for the collector. That is particularly true when the stamp is printed on paper that has been folded, and is later "opened up," thereby producing a band of white paper interrupting the stamp's design. These freaks are most dramatic when the white band is easily visible, as in Figs. 1-2 below.

But more subtle varieties can exist, as in Fig. 3 where a blow-up from a strip of C25 shows disruptions in parts of the design, visible especially in the left border on the right stamp extending into the A, I, and R of AIR MAIL, breaking the continuity of the circle around AIR MAIL, with a second portion of the fold disrupting the top edge of the second stamp so that it is no longer a straight line. Some paper folds are listed in the Checklist; others (Fig. 2 and 3) are being reported for the first time here.

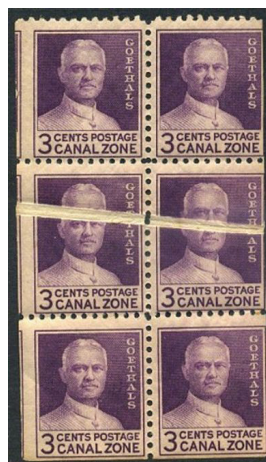


Fig. 1
Paper fold on
No. 117a



Fig. 2
Paper fold on C22



Fig. 3
Paper fold on a strip of four of
C25, with a blow-up of the top
portion of the first and second
stamps in the strip